

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
By Mildred Taylor

Historical Background

In order to fully appreciate this story, you will need to have a basic understanding of the social climate in which the story takes place. Use the links provided to research the following terms relevant to the historical background of *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*.

A. The Great Depression:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/features/timeline/depwwii/depress/depress.html>

1. What were some of the causes of the Great Depression?

2. What were some of the effects of the Great Depression?

B. Sharecropping: <http://www.bchm.org/wrr/recon/p6a.html>
<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/sci/A0844721.html>

1. Why did the plan of sharecropping seem to be a good idea for both the landowners and the sharecroppers?

2. Why was it really disastrous for the sharecroppers?

C. Jim Crow Laws:

http://www.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow.shtml

http://www.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec1_crow_laws.shtml

1. What is the origin of the term “Jim Crow”?

2. What was the purpose of Jim Crow laws?

3. Give some examples of Jim Crow laws.